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05/02/2012 Minutes

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting – Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Approved June 6, 2012

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Chair; David White; Joey Glushko; Patsy Kraemer; Elizabeth Karpati, Lisa Decker

Absent: Jane Auger, Michele Hassler, Teresa DeBenedictis

Minutes of March 7, 2012. Ann had submitted a few corrections to Joey previous to the meeting. Minutes approved as corrected.

Mill Brook -David reported that the Conservation Commission brought to Town Meeting the proposal of a natural siting for cremains at various sites in town. Michele attended and gave a good presentation. Town Meeting turned the proposal down the zoning article that would have allowed cremains, however.

During the presentation there was mention made of the linear park along Mill Brook and the maps were presented.

David also reported that work on the Arlington Catholic High School playing field will start shortly. No lights are planned for the field .It will be a field with artificial turf. A pathway will connect Cooke's Hollow and Buzzell Field along the back side of the field.

Master Planning process - The results of the current Vision 2020 survey will be revealed at the next Planning meeting. Wednesday, October 17th is the first proposed forum for the Master Planning process. People's observations of the community will be solicited and their druthers for the future asked.

Ann is hopeful of inserting the Mill Brook project into that master planning process. Joey presented a map showing the drainage into Mill Brook from storm water drains. The number of drains is very significant.

Elizabeth had distributed via email some notes on a lecture she attended. She passed on information on battling invasives. She will send us some additional information that she has.

Vision 2020 goals – Ann presented the environmental goal as stated by that task group. Ann suggested an editorial change to delete "limited" before open spaces. Elizabeth will relay that comment to the Steering Committee.

Downing Square – Lisa reported there was no news.

Busa Farm – no further news about specific plans.

Rain Gardens – Joey reported that there were three finalists to the program, and the Mystic River Watershed Association is waiting for plans for all of the garden proposals. There is \$6000 available for two projects. The first rain garden project at Spy Pond Park was done for \$1000. The Hurd Field parking lot is one possibility, where porous material would be used in part of the parking area so water could drain into the ground. The impervious sections would drain into the proposed rain garden. Another site is at the Hardy School.

Symmes – The project is moving along. There are now two park-like areas planned, plus the existing woods, under the conservation restriction of the Arlington Land Trust and the Conservation Commission.

Water Bodies Fund – This warrant article was approved by the Finance Committee and will come up before Town Meeting shortly.

Joey reported that the Planning Department has learned about new technologies in treating water body invasives. There will be a meeting planned in the future to cover that. Open Space will be invited to that meeting.

Walking Book – The group working on this Con Com project will meet with Adam Kurowski, the town's GIS expert, to develop maps of open spaces and other materials.

Submitted by Patsy Kraemer
June 2, 2012